

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex, with Mayor Knowles presiding and members Askren, Tucker, Rueger, and Cooper attending. Councilman Angel was not present. Others attending were Attorney Funkhouser; Acting Water Supt. Gray; Chief Beloit; Asst. Chief Reese; Supt. Givens; Asst. St. Comm. Miller; Brandon Epison; Ken and Paula Rudibaugh; Larry Williams; Elaine Springer; Cecil Waters; Don Jackson - Moore & Associates; and Jim O'Connor - Countrymark.

Mayor Knowles called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. She added if not, she entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilwoman Askren moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilman Cooper.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles requested action on the claims presented.

Councilman Cooper moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Councilman Rueger.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*CLAIMS\*\*\*\*\*

Water Operating & Maintenance \$16,114.43

Mayor Knowles reminded the Audience that anyone wishing to address the Board should approach the podium and state their name and the nature of their business.

Mayor Knowles stated they will now hear the report of the Acting Water Superintendent.

Supt. Gray reported he and the Mayor met with M E Simpson, whom EMC contracted with when they were still here about the water losses the water works has been experiencing. He stated they brought with them a report that he and the Mayor were unaware of, listing around 50 meters that were not testable or did not test right.

Mayor Knowles added that 15 meters need utility work before they are recalibrated. She stated EMC did the preliminary work, which is good, therefore, M E Simpson is familiar with Mount Vernon.

Supt. Gray then stated they will actually come out money ahead on that, and they hope to start after the first of the year collecting more data for the water modeling. He added

along those line, he would like permission to hire two part time employees for strictly that purpose.

Mayor Knowles agreed there is a lot of work involved.

Supt. Gray again stated he would use the temps to check the meters, and once that is completed, they can begin on the jail project.

Mayor Knowles added the according to the report, one big user, once fixed, could pay for the whole project. She stated that information is according to the report from a gentleman that has been doing this kind of work for 14 years.

Councilman Cooper asked how long Supt. Gray would need the temps ?

Supt. Gray replied a couple of weeks only.

Asst. Fire Chief Reese added they can usually check 16-20 fire plugs in a day.

Supt Gray agreed allowing for their inexperience.

Councilman Cooper asked if January was a good month to start that, wouldn't they be creating slick spots around town ?

Supt. Gray replied if it is that cold, they won't do it.

Councilman Cooper asked if the temps would be supervised ?

Supt. Gray replied yes.

Councilman Cooper stated he has no problem with it and then moved Supt. Gray be given permission to hire two part time employees, for two weeks, and if necessary, that time may be extended. Seconded by Councilwoman Askren.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Knowles stated under the Legal portion of the Agenda is opening bids received for under drain filters at the water department.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe opened the bids that were received, in the following order:

1. U S Filter, accompanied by Bid Bond

4 MGD option-US Filter Trident Model TR-840A Stretch - \$481,092

5-6 MGD options - 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  US Filter Trident Model TR-840A Stretch - \$656,983

8 MGD option - 2 US Filter Trident Model TR-840A Stretch - \$870,622

2. The F.B. Leopold Company, Inc., accompanied by Bid Bond

Option #1 - 4 MGD, concrete \$434,122

Option #2 - 4 MGD, steel \$702,132

Option #3 - 5 MGD, concrete \$524,121

Option #4 - 5 MGD, steel \$861,123

Option #5 - 6 MGD, concrete \$620,132

Option #6 - 6 MGD, steel \$998,911

Councilman Rueger moved the Board acknowledge receipt of the bids and that they were opened, and they now need legal review by Attorney Funkhouser and engineering review by Moore & Associates. Seconded by Councilman Cooper.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any Old Business ?

Attorney Funkhouser stated he is still working on the landlord/tenant issue and has secured a copy of the Highland, IN ordinance, that does incorporate that. He added there are ways to go after the tenant via the court system or collections agencies. He then stated Highland uses contracts to even initially get service, that is the hook, they have already agreed in writing to pay.

Councilman Cooper stated the problem is water is secured in the husband's name, they skip out on the bill, then come get water in the wife's name, skip out on the bill, then get it in the kid's name, it is hard to collect.

Councilman Tucker stated something should be done, other people get the water turned off for non payment. He then stated when people skip out on their bills, the burden falls on the residential customers, something needs done.

Councilman Cooper agreed and added that the owner, via the deposit he charges the tenant, gets his money back that way. He then added they should do it like Highland does.

Attorney Funkhouser stated the Board needs to step up the language or they will have the same problems.

Councilman Cooper stated they need to be making every effort to collect and suggested he get with Supt. Gray on the issue.

Attorney agreed and added he can change the ordinance.

Councilman Cooper agreed, as did Councilwoman Askren.

Councilman Cooper then moved Attorney Funkhouser draft an ordinance, more like Highland's ordinance, stating the landlord is responsible for back bills. Seconded by Councilwoman Askren.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any discussion ?

Councilwoman Askren asked that the landlord be sent a duplicate bill, so he at least knows there is a problem.

Mayor Knowles agreed that should be done.

Attorney Funkhouser stated once the ordinance is changed, that would be fine.

Councilman Tucker stated he knows they can file sewer liens but not water liens, but don't most people that have water also have city sewer ?

Attorney Funkhouser stated he assumes they could file on the sewer part only of the bill.

Councilman Cooper asked if they could come in then and pay the sewer part and not the water.

Mayor Knowles replied sure they could. She also stated the lien stays with the property, the debt stays with the person.

Supt. Gray added when water is requested, they require a picture ID and a copy of rental agreement with their name on it.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any further discussion ? She stated if not, she stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles stated under New Business, the Board has received a letter from MAI concerning invoices from 2004 that they say have not been paid by SRF. She added she gave

a copy to Bookkeeper Bennett and she indicated that if she received the invoices they went to SRF for payment.

Mayor Knowles then stated if there were no further business, she entertains a motion to adjourn.

Councilwoman Askren moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilman Rueger.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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Rosemary L Knowles

Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfe

Clerk-Treasurer